

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 4, 2005

(Approved 5/2/2005)

Chair Darrel Fournier called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:05 p.m. in Room 438 of the State House, Augusta. Members present were Michael Albert, Representative Richard Brown, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Chief John Dean, Representative Robert Duplessie, Chief Darrel Fournier, Edward Johnston, Geoffrey Maker, Senator Richard Nass, Chief Jethro Pease, Charles Soltan, Leslie Wiles, Steve Willis and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused from today's meeting included Jack Berry, Representative Patricia Blanchette, Jay Bradshaw, John Cannon, Art Cleaves, Harty Norris, and David Wacker. Senator Bruce Bryant was absent from the meeting. Alex McPhedran from the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters attended as guest of the Fire Commission.

A motion by Jethro Pease, seconded by Mike Albert, to accept the revised Fire Commission minutes of March 7, 2005. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Nominations Committee submitted their slate of candidates for Fire Commission officers. Fire Commission bylaws state that officers are to be elected annually at the regularly scheduled meeting in April. The following candidates were nominated:

Chief Jeffrey Cammack- Chair
Senator Richard Nass- Vice Chair
Geoffrey Maker-Secretary
Chief John Dean- Treasurer

Chair Fournier opened the floor for further nominations. There were no other names so Chair Fournier closed nominations.

A motion by Jethro Pease, seconded by Richard Nass, to accept the Nominations Committee's proposed slate of officers for the Fire Commission and to nominate Chief Jeffrey Cammack for Chair, Senator Richard Nass for Vice Chair, Geoffrey Maker for Secretary and Chief John Dean for Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

The Traffic Direction Committee reports LD 1337 "*An Act To Enhance the Safety of Fire and Emergency Medical Service Personnel*" was referred to the Transportation Committee and is scheduled for public hearing on April 14th. Traffic Direction Committee members will attend the public hearing and submit amended language since the printed bill did not reflect the committee's final agreement.

The Truss Construction Committee reports that the rulemaking process is moving forward although several issues need to be resolved prior to the public hearing. Did members intend the marking to include new and existing construction? How and who would enforce the rules? Fire Commission members cited the Bangor ordinance as a model for marking buildings using truss construction. Members clarified their position that truss construction marking is intended for new construction although the Fire Commission strongly encourages existing construction also be identified. Members agreed that local fire chiefs or similar local officials, with the assistance of the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO), should be authorized to enforce the rules on a local level. Members also stated that by supporting these rules it was not the Fire Commission's intent to criticize truss construction. The Fire Commission's concern is not truss construction under normal conditions but under fire conditions when it changes and becomes dangerous.

The Training Facilities Committee reports progress on the Request for Information (RFI). An updated list of potential vendors and a draft of a comparison table was distributed to members. Five in-state vendors were added to the original list. The deadline for vendors to reply is Monday, April 25, 2005. Members discussed additional columns, needs and considerations and revised the comparison table. Members added extra categories and agreed to weigh each category based on a 1-5 or a 1-10 numbering scale. Mike Albert, John Dean, Jay Bradshaw, Steve Willis, Jeff Cammack, Art Cleaves and Dave Wacker were appointed to review the RFI proposals and to make recommendations to the Fire Commission. Copies of the proposals will be available at the May meeting. Members also suggested contacting the Maine Bureau of Purchasing for their input on the process.

The Spring Conference Committee reports a successful second "Blaine House Conference on Emergency Response." The Fire Commission received many positive comments and suggestions for next year's conference. Comments included expanding to a two day event, raves for the clandestine labs presentation and offering more vendors. Maine Municipal Association (MMA) has offered to partner with the Fire Commission on the 2006 conference. Fire Commission members expressed their gratitude to MMA and Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) for their assistance in making the 2005 Spring Conference a success.

Old Business

The Health Care Study committee did not have an opportunity to meet and respectfully suggested L.D. 10 "*Resolve, To Fund a Study Regarding Health Care*

for Maine's Firefighters” be carried over to the Second Session of the 122nd Legislature. The Criminal Justice/ Public Safety Committee will make the final decision.

L.D 1021 “*An Act To Implement Task Force Recommendations Relating to Parity and Portability of Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters*”, was scheduled for public hearing on April 5th and work session on April 7th. The Fire Commission voted at the March meeting to support the concept of L.D. 10 (one member opposed the motion and one member abstained from the vote) and support carrying the bill over to the 2nd session of the Legislature.

The Legislative Reception was held on March 11th at the Ground Round. The reception was well attended although members offered a variety of ideas to improve the event. Suggestions included a short program or agenda, introductions by the Chair, inviting individual members’ legislators, and making more effort to circulate among the legislators. Fire Commission members discussed methods of identifying themselves at various events, i.e. the legislative reception, fire caucus and meetings. Identification badges with the state seal, Maine Fire Protection Services Commission and individual’s names were suggested and a prototype will be available for approval at the May meeting.

A motion by Ted Johnston, seconded by Jeff Cammack, to move forward and develop an identification badge for members of the Fire Commission; and upon approval of the prototype, to purchase the identification badges for Fire Commission members. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Steve Willis, seconded by Ted Johnston, to formally recognize retiring members of the Fire Commission. The motion passes unanimously.

The first meeting of the Legislative Fire Caucus was held in March. House members were caucusing on the budget so turnout was limited to interested Senators. Fire Commission members suggested holding another introductory meeting on Tuesday, April 12th and a letter will be distributed to members at their desks that morning. Members agreed to hold future fire caucus meetings prior to the Fire Commission’s regular monthly meetings during session.

New Business

L.D. 1508 “*An Act To Regulate Fire Alarm Contractors*” was brought to the attention of the Fire Commission. Members expressed concern over the need to manage and oversee the provisions of the bill and that additional resources may be needed by the State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO). Members agreed to further study the bill. Other bills discussed included L.D. 472 “*An Act To Amend the Statewide Building Code*”, L.D. 954 “*An Act To Make Fairs and Festivals*

Safer for Children”, and L.D. 1139 “An Act To Identify the Benefits and Costs of Adjustments to Building Codes”.

The SFMO has developed a checklist for line-of-duty deaths and will make it available on the Fire Commission’s website. Members suggested the checklist be forwarded to the Maine Fire Chiefs.

Members discussed the two vacancies remaining on the Fire Commission. The Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters has forwarded their nominee, Alex McPhedran, to the Governor. Members discussed possible names for the Governor’s representative vacancy on the Fire Commission.

A motion by Steve Willis, seconded by Mike Albert, to forward the name of Steve Bunker to Governor Baldacci in consideration for his representative on the Fire Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Commission members reviewed their upcoming meeting schedule and discussed not meeting in July and August. July 4th is on a Monday this year so the July meeting will need to move to July 11th. Members discussed the RFI proposals, the truss construction public hearings and other items that would require members to meet at least once during the summer. Members did agree to add a meeting if necessary.

A motion by Jeff Cammack, seconded by Ted Johnston, to cancel the August 1st Fire Commission meeting. The motion passes unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Fournier adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

Please mark your calendars:

Monday, May 2 nd	Fire Caucus	Room 438, SH	12:00pm
Monday, May 2 nd	Regular Meeting	Room 438, SH	1:00pm
Monday, June 6 th	Fire Caucus	Room 438, SH	12:00pm
Monday, June 6 th	Regular Meeting	Room 438, SH	1:00pm
Monday, July 11 th	Regular Meeting	CMCC	1:00pm